



**Department of Education  
Charter School Accountability Meeting**

**October 7, 2013  
Renewal Application Process  
Initial Meeting - Minutes**

**Positive Outcomes Charter School**

Mr. Blowman called the meeting to order. For the purpose of the record, introductions were made:

**Voting Committee Members**

- David Blowman, Deputy Secretary, Delaware Department of Education (DDOE), Chair of the Committee
- Karen Field Rogers, Associate Secretary, Financial Reform & Resource Management, DDOE
- Rich Heffron, Senior Vice President Government Affairs, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce
- Paul Harrell, Director, Public & Private Partnerships, DDOE
- April McCrae, Education Associate, Education Associate, Science Assessment and STEM, DDOE
- Barbara Mazza, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources, DDOE
- Tasha Cannon, Deputy Officer Talent Recruitment, Selection and Strategy, Teacher & Leader Effectiveness Unit (TLEU), DDOE

**Staff to the Committee (Non-voting)**

- Chantel Janiszewski, Education Associate, Charter School Office
- Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General, Counsel to the Committee

**Ex-officio Members (Non-voting)**

- Kendall Massett, Executive Director, Delaware Charter School Network
- Donna Johnson, Executive Director, Delaware State Board of Education

**Representatives of Positive Outcomes Charter School**

- Kim Vincent, Board Vice President
- Ed Emmett, Director
- Dave Rose, Special Education Coordinator
- Patti Kobus, Reading Specialist
- Michelle Hastie, Business Manager
- Steve Norman, Principal

**Meeting purpose:** To review and discuss Positive Outcomes Charter School's renewal application, to take such further action thereon as the Charter School Accountability Committee deems appropriate including, without limitation, the drafting of a report on the application, and to give the applicant the opportunity to present additional evidence beyond the data contained in the renewal application, supporting its case for charter renewal, describe improvements undertaken or planned for the school, and detail the school's plans for the next charter term.

**Renewal Application Process Timeline:** Mr. Blowman discussed the renewal application process timeline, identifying October 15, 2013 as the release date of the Charter School Accountability Committee's (CSAC) Initial Report, October 23, 2013 as the date of the Public Hearing, October 30, 2013 as the deadline for the applicant's response to the Initial Report, November 4, 2013 as the final meeting of the CSAC and November 12, 2013 as the Delaware State Board of Education meeting at which the Department's decision on the application will be announced by the Secretary of Education.

**Renewal Process:** Mr. Blowman discussed the changes to the charter school renewal process as a result of changes to legislation, primarily HB 165, and the role of the Performance Framework in making high-stakes decisions around renewals.

**Meeting between the CSAC and Positive Outcomes Charter School:** Mr. Blowman invited Mr. Ed Emmett, Director, to summarize for the CSAC each section of the application, highlighting key points. CSAC voting members asked clarifying questions directly of the applicant after each section was summarized. The sections of the application, identified below, were discussed. Various issues were explored, including those listed under applicable section headings.

1. Overview of the school

Mr. Harrell asked how long the Learning through Internship/Interest has been in place at Positive Outcomes. Mr. Emmett stated that it has been in place for three years, since being identified as a Partnership Zone school in 2010. Mr. Harrell asked if the school was pleased with the program and Mr. Emmett replied that yes as it gives students the opportunity to find success in the workplace and in the community.

2. Academic Framework (including an Alternate Academic Performance Framework)

Ms. Johnson commended the school for its "at-risk" designation and serving approximately 65% students with disabilities. She asked how many students had a 504 plan, and the response was 7. Mr. Rose added that most students in the school require more accommodations than what a 504 plan would provide.

3. Organizational Framework

Ms. Mazza commended Positive Outcomes Charter School's commitment to students who need more than 4 years of school to graduate. Ms. Johnson commended the school for the transparency of its website, and suggested that their website could serve as a model for other schools.

4. Financial Framework

Mr. Harrell asked if there was an increased demand for the services provided by their school. Mr. Emmett stated that the Partnership Zone brought a greater awareness to their school, resulting in a greater demand for the services their school provides. Students come from as far away as Newark and Seaford to attend Positive Outcomes.

5. Five-Year Planning

Mr. Blowman asked if there were any plans to expand at Positive Outcomes current site or at a secondary site. Mr. Emmett stated that they are considering secondary sites in the future. If they were to expand at their current site, they feel their school culture would be compromised. Mr. Emmett also added that they would definitely consider partnering with school districts to provide educational services.

**Conclusion of the meeting:** Mr. Blowman asked the voting members of the CSAC if there was any additional information they required in order to inform their decision-making. The result was a unanimous “no”. Mr. Blowman then asked the voting members of the CSAC if there were any sections of the application that they felt warranted a “Does Not Meet Standard” rating at this time based on their review of the application and the discussions at the meeting. The result was a unanimous “no”. The meeting concluded at 2:05 p.m.; however, members of the CSAC remained until 2:15 p.m.